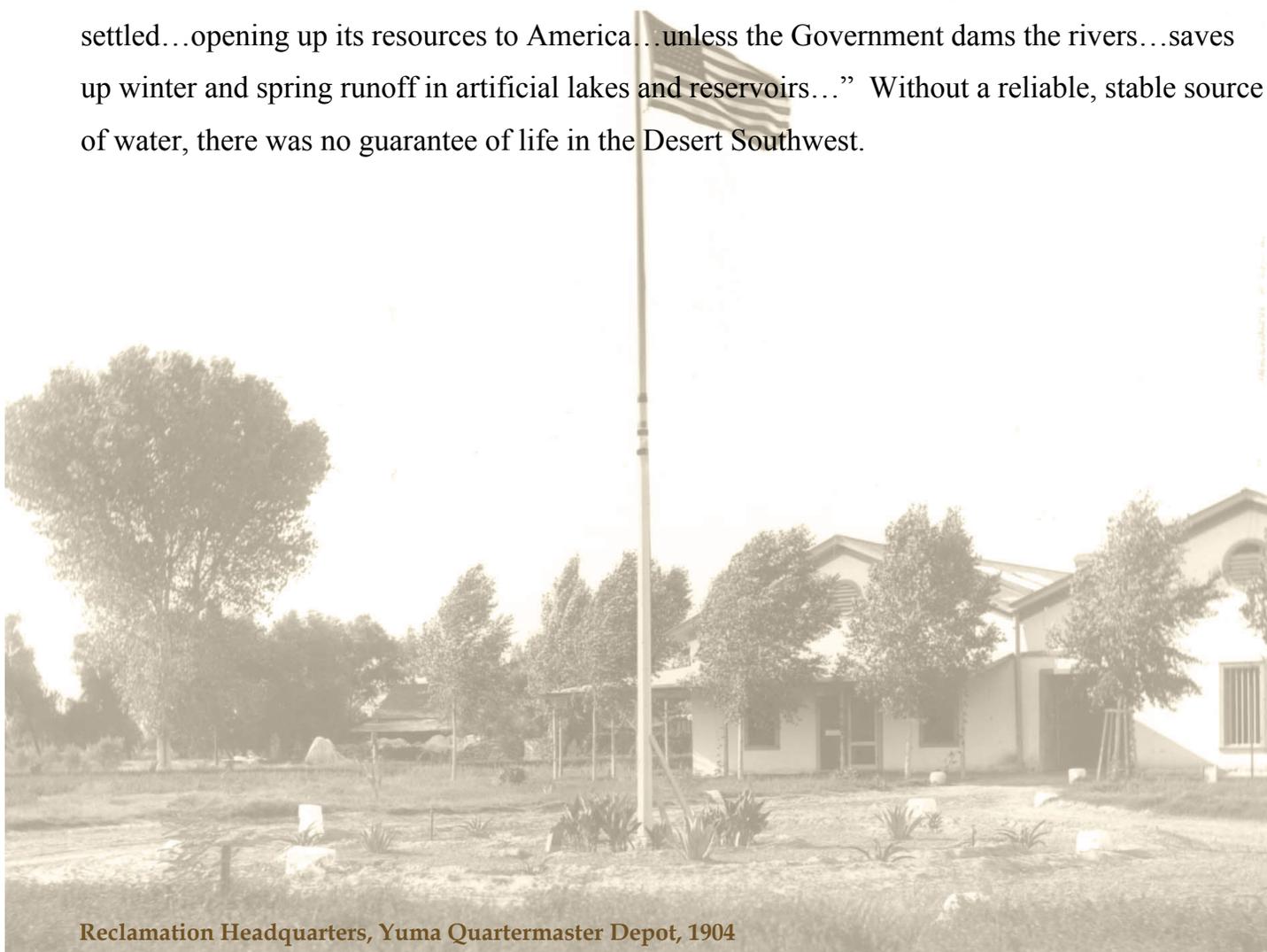


HISTORY

- ◆ In 1902, Congress passed the Reclamation Act and created the U.S. Reclamation Service, which is known today as the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation).
- ◆ A year later, Reclamation moved into the Yuma area and created what was then called “The Great Yuma Irrigation Project.”
 - This was Reclamation’s first development along the Lower Colorado River, a 125,000 square-mile watershed congruent of Arizona, California, and Nevada.
- ◆ Explorer John Wesley Powell boated down the Colorado River in 1869 and became a National hero. He told our Nation, “The West is an arid land...hostile to farming...and will never be settled...opening up its resources to America...unless the Government dams the rivers...saves up winter and spring runoff in artificial lakes and reservoirs...” Without a reliable, stable source of water, there was no guarantee of life in the Desert Southwest.

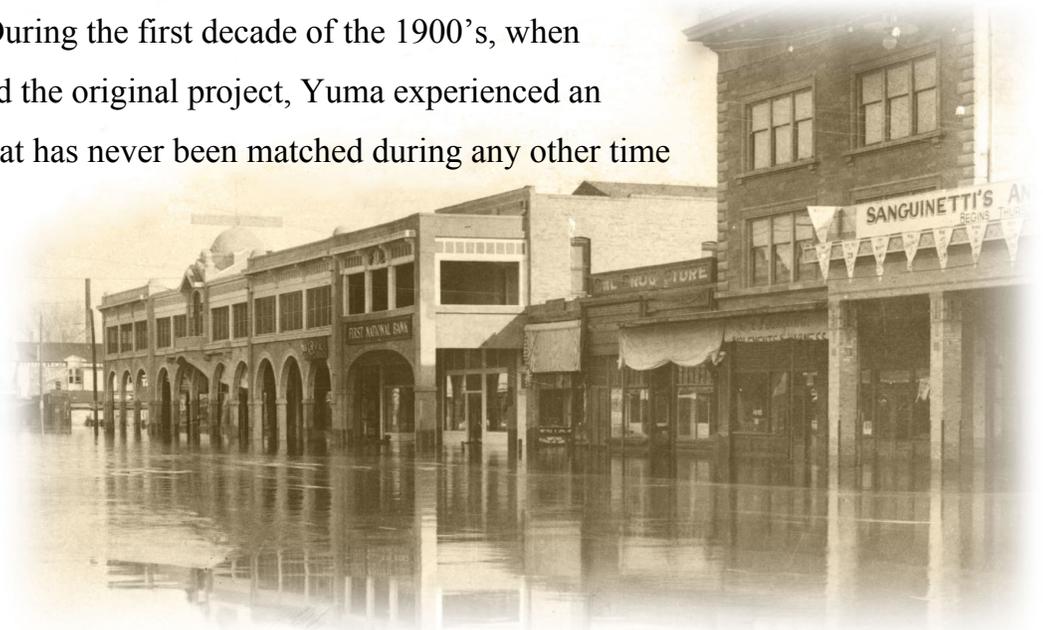


Reclamation Headquarters, Yuma Quartermaster Depot, 1904



Laguna Dam Celebration, March 31, 1909

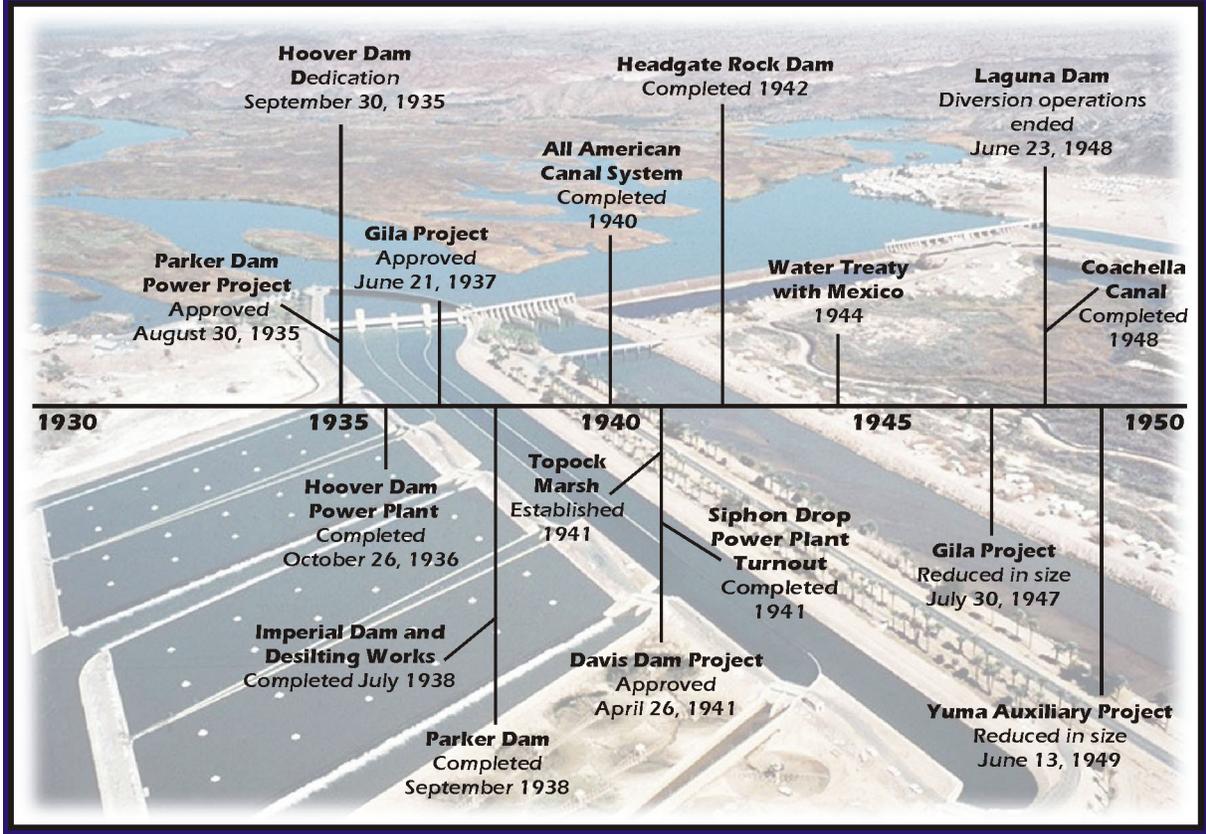
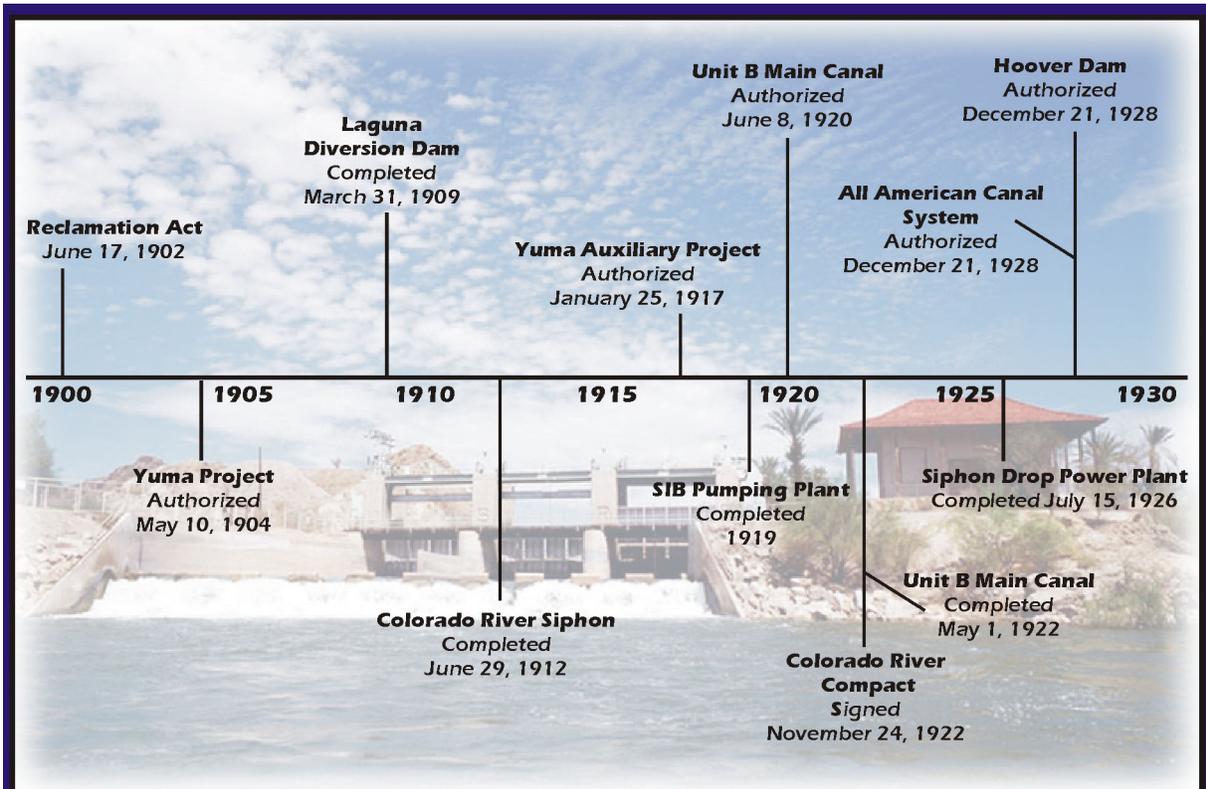
- ◆ In 1905, Reclamation began an ambitious venture with the construction of the Laguna Dam to divert water to farmlands in the Yuma area. Completed in 1909, it was the first authorized dam built on the Colorado River.
- ◆ Reclamation began constructing levees along the Colorado River in the early 1900's to protect floodplain lands between the Laguna Dam and the Mexican border.
- ◆ The Colorado River Siphon, completed in 1912, is to this day, considered an engineering marvel, as it carries water under the Colorado River to nurture the Yuma Valley.
- ◆ Ninety years later, due to the construction of Imperial Dam, Laguna Dam was converted to a regulatory structure, and reminds us of our beginnings.
- ◆ By controlling the Colorado River and its tributaries, Reclamation has transformed many river communities from dusty little towns into well irrigated, agricultural meccas. During the first decade of the 1900's, when Reclamation completed the original project, Yuma experienced an increased prosperity that has never been matched during any other time in history.



Yuma: Main, 1st, and 2nd Streets - January 22, 1916



Historic Milestones



Historic Milestones Continued

